

Message Text

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TAGS: FAO, AORG, UN

SUBJECT:FAO INDUSTRY COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

1. SUMMARY. FAO INDUSTRY COOPERATIVE COMMITTEE (ICP), ESTABLISHED IN 1966 TO LINK AGRO INDUSTRY WITH DEVELOPMENT, HAS GROWN INTO DISFAVOR WITH FAO DG AND WILL BE TERMINATED JUNE 30, 1978. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF ICP HAS ASKED SYG WALDHEIM TO MAKE A SOMEWHAT BROADENED ICP A CENTRAL PART OF UN SYSTEM. MISSION REQUESTED SUPPORT. END SUMMARY.

2. MISSION HAS BEEN AWARE OF EXISTING DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM OF AGRO-ALLIED INDUSTRIES WITH FAO AND OTHER UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS (IN-UNCLASSIFIED

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DUSTRY COOPERATIVE PROGRAM, ICP) AND FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL SAOUMA. THIS PROGRAM ESTABLISHED IN 1966 IN FAO, PROVIDED A DIRECT LINK THROUGH THE UN SYSTEM BETWEEN INDUSTRIES RELATED TO AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES AND THE GOVERNMENTS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

3. SINCE THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF THE ICP WAS TO STIMULATE

AGRO-INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, ITS MEMBERSHIP WAS CONFINED TO COMPANIES WHICH OPERATED IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD. THROUGH ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS THESE

COMPANIES VOLUNTARILY MET THE FINANCIAL NEEDS OF THE ICP AND PARTICIPATION NORMALLY WAS AT THE CORPORATE LEVEL. THE ICP OPERATED: (A) THROUGH COUNTRY MISSIONS TO IDENTIFY AREAS FOR INDUSTRIAL PARTNERSHIP, (B) THROUGH WORKING GROUPS TO PROVIDE AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON MATTERS SUCH AS DAIRY DEVELOPMENT, ANIMAL HEALTH, SEEDS, PESTICIDES, ETC., AND (C) IN SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENTS AND UN PROJECTS.

4. MEMBERSHIP IN THE ICP NORMALLY HAS BEEN AROUND 100 MEMBERS, WITH THE GREATEST PERCENTAGE BEING U.S. FIRMS. ALTHOUGH LOCATED WITHIN THE FAO STRUCTURE, THE ICP COOPERATED WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS WITHIN THE UN SYSTEM, INCLUDING WHO, UNIDO AND UNEP AND ESTABLISHED EFFECTIVE LIAISON WITH THE UN CENTER ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS (TCN'S).

5. ALTHOUGH ENCOURAGED OVER THE YEARS BY THE FAO GOVERNING BODIES, AND RECOGNIZED GENERALLY AS A VALUABLE SOURCE OF ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE DEVELOPING NATIONS, THE PROGRAM FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS BEGAN TO GROW INTO DISFAVOR WITH THE FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL SAOUMA SHORTLY UNCLASSIFIED

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AFTER HIS ELECTION IN LATE 1975.

6. REPORTEDLY, THE DG WAS CONCERNED THAT BECAUSE THE ICP WAS FUNDED VOLUNTARILY BY PARTICIPATING COMPANIES, AND DIRECTED BY ITS OWN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, HE DID NOT HAVE FULL CONTROL OVER IT. HE ALSO APPARENTLY WAS CONCERNED THAT THE ICP MIGHT EXERT UNDUE INFLUENCE ON THIRD WORLD NATIONS WHICH DID NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND THE ICP'S ROLE AND RELATIONSHIP TO THE UN SYSTEM. SINCE FAO HAS HAD RELATIONS WITH INDUSTRY INDEPENDENT OF THE ICP, HE SAW LITTLE NEED FOR ITS CONTINUATION.

7. FOLLOWING UPON DISCUSSION IN THE FAO PROGRAM COMMITTEE, THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S VIEW THAT THE ICP SHOULD NOT BE PART OF THE FAO STRUCTURE WAS CONVEYED TO THE FAO CONFERENCE IN NOVEMBER 1977. THE CONFERENCE NOTED THIS VIEW AND ACCEPTED THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S INTENTION TO STUDY, AND ADVISE THE FAO COUNCIL, ON WAYS OF SECURING FUTURE COOPERATION BETWEEN FAO AND INDUSTRY.

8. SUBSEQUENT TO THE FAO CONFERENCE, BOTH THE FAO DG AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ICP HAVE TAKEN

ACTION CONCERNING THE FUTURE OF THE PROGRAM. ON THE
FAO SIDE, WITHOUT WAITING FOR HIS GOVERNING BODY TO
CONSIDER THE MATTER, DR. SAOUMA HAS INFORMED THE ICP
THAT IT MUST CEASE OPERATIONS IN FAO BY THE END OF
JUNE 1978. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ICP IN TURN

HAS WRITTEN UN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM REQUESTING
HIS HELP IN MAKING THE ICP A CENTRAL PART OF THE UNITED
NATIONS SYSTEM (COPIES OF BOTH COMMUNICATIONS BEING
POUCHED STIBRAVY).

9. THE ICP ENVISAGES THAT IT CAN SERVE A BROADER RANGE
OF ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES
IF IT IS ASSOCIATED DIRECTLY WITH THE UN AND WORKS IN
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CONJUNCTION WITH POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES APPROVED BY THE
UN GENERAL AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES AND THE SECRETARY
GENERAL. COLLABORATION WITH THE FAO, TO THE EXTENT
DESIRED BY FAO GOVERNING BODIES AND THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL,
IS NOT EXCLUDED. OFFICIALS OF THE ICP HAVE INFORMED US
THAT IN LATE 1977 DISCUSSIONS WITH SYG WALDHEIM, AND IN
SUBSEQUENT TALKS FOLLOWING THE FAO DG'S ACTION TO
TERMINATE THE PROGRAM, THE SECRETARY GENERAL HAS INDICATED
A WILLINGNESS TO SEEK MEASURES FOR ACCOMMODATING THE ICP
WITHIN THE UN STRUCTURE. WE WOULD WISH TO ENCOURAGE
THIS IF INDEED THIS IS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S VIEW.

10. ACTION REQUESTED: MISSION IS REQUESTED TO INFORM
THE UN AT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL THAT THE UNITED STATES
IS AWARE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S CONSIDERATION OF
A DIRECT UN RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ICP AND WOULD STRONGLY
FAVOR SUCH ACTION. FROM OUR STANDPOINT, THE SCIENTIFIC,
TECHNICAL AND MARKETING SKILLS OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE
INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES CAN DO MUCH TO ASSIST THIRD
WORLD DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE TRANSFER OF MANAGERIAL
AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE. WE WILL BE PLEASED TO WORK WITH
THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON HOW THE ICP MIGHT BEST WORK
WITHIN THE UN AND PROVIDE WHATEVER SUPPORT WE CAN.

11. PLEASE ADVISE DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY ROME OF
SECRETARIAT REACTION AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS. VANCE

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